

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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Immediate Release

STATE CONTROLLER PRESENTS 'CASH AWARD' FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Los Angeles – February 7, 2001. State Controller Kathleen Connell presented a check to school officials and parents today at Balboa Magnet Elementary School in Northridge for their academic achievements. Connell presented administrators and teachers a check for \$41,158. The check signed by the Controller is part of the Governor's statewide program that rewards students at schools who show academic improvements in test scores.

Connell, whose son attends Balboa Magnet Elementary School, presented the 'cash award' to the educators and administrators who share her dedication and commitment to academic achievement. "These educators are among the many instrumental in teaching our children the necessary skills to become future leaders. I applaud their achievement and am proud to present them with this check."

The Governor's Performance Awards Program allocated \$227million, which amounts to \$63 per student. The State Controller's Office processes the vouchers received from the database of award-winning schools. The award checks are then sent to county treasurers for deposit into school district accounts.

Cash awards were sent to school districts beginning this month, and the monies can be used by schools at their discretion. In Los Angeles, LAUSD schools (including Balboa) will be awarded over \$20 million.

The Academic Performance Index(API) were based solely on student results from the Stanford 9 standardized test of basic skills, which was then scored against a national sample of students. The strongest gains were shown in the elementary schools where districts concentrated on language arts and reading skills.

The Governor's Performance Award Program is part of the state's education reform initiatives passed by the Legislature.

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